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MY HEPATICAS.—One of the interesting things for the botanist or the gardener to do at this time of year, is to remove to some spot in his garden a few of the most attractive wild plants which abound in our woods, swamps and fields. Last year, I removed some plants of blood-root, tooth-wort, spring beauty, phlox, squirrel corn, several species of violets and several *varieties* of hepaticas. These are near the house and are a constant source of delight to the children, visitors, members of the household, and I hardly need add to the person who transplanted the flowers. These were removed as they were found with a little earth about the roots.

Two or three plants of the hepatica were chosen for the pure white of their flowers, others for their delicate pink color, others for the large size of their flowers, others for the deep blue of the flowers; still others were selected for their double flowers. This spring the hepaticas are all true in their peculiarities. One of the blue varieties has already begun to sport. One stem bore two flowers near the top and another three. On a much larger scale I am collecting plants for a wild garden on the bank of a brook and a small pond near the green-house. Here we have a variety of soil from pond to muck or dry sand; from perpetual shade to a full exposure of the bright sun. Here are ferns and grasses, some shrubs and some of the most interesting hardy wild plants. It is a favorite spot for all who live at the College.—*W. J. Beal, Michigan Agricultural College.*

BOTANICAL NOTES.—The Botanical Gazette for April, contains, among other articles, bryological notes by C. H. Austin; new species of Colorado fungi, by C. H. Peck; late Rhode Island flowers, by W. W. Bailey; Coniferæ of the Crestines, by T. S. Brandegee. The bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club for March contains descriptions of new species of North American *Uredinei*, and an interesting table showing the dates when the leaves fall, by N. L. Britton, who states that "the female in diœcious plants appears to hold its foliage longer than the male." Caruel's New Botanical Journal (Italy x, No. 2), contains an article on the floral structure and affinities of various monocotyledonous families.

In the *Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science* are two important papers, one by S. H. Vines, on Researches into the Nature of Lichens, and a very important paper, well illustrated, by J. C. Ewart, on the life history of *Bacillus anthracis*.

ZOÖLOGY.[1]

HELIX CHILHOWEËNSIS Lewis.—I have lately had the pleasure, after a pedestrian excursion of nearly one hundred miles, over the roughest of mountain roads, to collect this rare species in its normal habitat.

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[1] The departments of Ornithology and Mammalogy are conducted by Dr. ELLIOTT COUES, U. S. A.

This shell is held by Mr. Binney, if I mistake not, to rank only as a variety of the *H. diodonta* Say. In this Mr. Binney is following, no doubt, closely in the line of recent zoölogical testimony; but if this species is to be held as a synonym, it will be difficult to convince any fair-minded student of our shells, that, under the same law of interpretation, *H. major* Binney, is not a synonym of *H. albolabris* Say, as held by Mr. Bland; or that *Zonites subplanus* Binney, is other than a variety of *Z. inornatus* Say; or *Z. capnodes* Binney, anything but a variety of *Z. fuliginosus* Griffith. A "general resemblance" in the "jaws" and "linguals" of certain groups, so vague as to render the expression "jaw as usual in the group" sufficiently definite, makes a very convenient post about which to lash the whip of synonyms; but there are other characters, which only the collector can know, that ought, it seems to us, to be taken notice of in all our accounts with authors who have written upon species.

The writer first found the large variety of *H. diodonta* several years ago in Whitley County, Kentucky. He has since collected it in numerous localities of the Carboniferous sandstone region of South-eastern Kentucky and Northern Tennessee, and it has never failed, in a single specimen, to exhibit its normal characters, save in the single particular of size. While shells have been found nearly double the dimensions of Maine specimens received from Mr. Allen, and nearly treble those of New York examples from Dr. Lewis, none have ever been seen, at all approaching, in this particular, the smallest specimens of *H. chilhoweënsis.* The latter shell has nearly one whorl more than the *H. diodonta;* it has no tooth on the lower third of the peristome, and at least one-half the specimens which I have collected want the parietal tooth. My largest specimen measures 39 mill. in diameter and 20 mill. in height. There is very little variation in the size of the specimens which I have seen. The animal is slender, quite sluggish in movement, and not timid as is the case with *H. diodonta.* The surface is roughened with irregular, reniform tubercles, the tentacles are very long and delicate, and the foot attenuate and keeled posteriorly.

It has a habit of greatly flattening and spreading its foot, especially after full-feeding, and will in that condition, remain for hours upon smooth surfaces of planed boards, pebbles or lettuce-leaves, evidently in calm enjoyment of its meal, having, in this respect, the exact habit of the European *H. pomatia* L. It inhabits the dense thickets and Kalmia jungles of the Jellicoes, and is rare, even in its native habitat.

The great size of this shell, and that of other species of wider range found with it, offers an argument controverting the prevailing opinion that limestone regions only are favorable to molluscan life.

These shells are found in the carboniferous sandstone mountains of Tennessee; and among their northern radices or foot-hills in Kentucky, I several years since collected the largest specimens, which I have ever seen, of several common Ohio species. It is fair to remark, however, that the shells are fewer in numbers, both of species and specimens, though so enormously developed in size. Exceptions exist, nevertheless, in both cases. During the present excursion I took specimens of *H. tridentata* Say, measuring 25 mill. in diameter, and specimens of *Z. inornatus* Say, (*subplanus ?*) measuring 23 mill. Associated with these, however, was a variety of the *H. hirsuta* Say, with which all southern collectors are familiar, much dwarfed in size, rounded, and approaching in form the *H. maxillata* Gould. The *H. stenotrema* Fer. from the same locality is very large, and very abundant, as is also the small variety of *H. hirsuta.* Very large specimens of *Z. sculptilis* Bland, were found, measuring 11 mill. in diameter.

Associated with these shells was, also, the very rare *H. wetherbyi* Bland. But one living example of this shell was taken when the species was discovered. To this one Mr. George S. Huntington afterwards added two or three living specimens which he collected in the foot-hills of the Jellicoes. To these the present excursion has added a very few. This species is distributed, so far as traced, through the carboniferous sand hills of southern Kentucky and northern Tennessee, but occurs only rarely, at the foot of cliffs under leaves, or deeply buried under well-rotted logs. The shell is often coated with a mass of sticky dirt, made up of earth and the mucus secreted by the animal, which it is impossible to remove, unless after thorough soaking, without stripping the epidermis from the shell. The animal is blueish-black and finely granulated; the tentacles are very slender and the foot attenuated and sharply keeled behind. This interesting species will probably remain rare in collections, if we may judge fairly, after various endeavors to find it in greater numbers; and the more especially, because a vicious custom prevails in that country of firing the woods every Spring, to consume the leaves fallen from the trees, and encourage a scanty growth of grass upon which the half-starved stock of the idle inhabitants subsists. Only in sheltered nooks that the fire-fiend never reaches, and in the region of springs and mountain brooks are the molluscs safe. But even under these discouraging circumstances, the Jellico range offers a wide field for future discovery. We found here, growing luxuriantly with the *Kalmia*, the beautiful *Lygodium palmatum* Schwartz, the *Epigæa repens* L., the *Gaultheria procumbens* L. and other plants common in more northern mountain regions. Species of rare *Coleoptera* are not uncommon, and no doubt many new species, in all departments of zoölogy, await the explorer who may have the courage and endurance to summer in the foot-hills of the Jellicoes.—*A. G. Wetherby.*

NOTICE OF THE SPIDERS OF THE "POLARIS" EXPEDITION.—The spiders collected by Dr. Bessels during the Arctic Expedition of the "Polaris," are, as might have been expected, very few in number, only *four* species (in *eight* examples) having been brought home. Of these four species two belong to the genus *Erigone*, one to *Lycosa*, and one to *Trochosa;* only one, a small *Erigone*, appears to be new to science, the other *Erigone*, as also the *Lycosa* belong to species that seem to be rather widely spread in the Arctic regions. The *Trochosa* must for the present be left undetermined, the example being undeveloped, and in a very bad state of preservation. All the examples are from West Greenland, and, with exception of the *Lycosa*, which bears the locality: "Foulke Fiord" (at about 78° 20′ lat.), they were all collected at Polaris Bay (about 81° 30′ lat.). The two species of *Erigone*, and probably also the *Trochosa*, are new for Greenland.

In a former paper[1] I have stated that the number of the species of spiders up to that time observed in Greenland, were probably eighteen, describėd or mentioned partly by O. Fabricius in his Fauna Grœnlandica, and partly by myself. L. Koch[2] has since published a new Greelandian *Lycosa*, *L. aquilonaris;* and Cambridge[3] has lately, besides several other species from the Arctic parts of America, etc., described three new species: *Dictyna borealis*, *Erigone whymperi* and *Linyphia turbatrix* from Greenland,[4] in which part of America, accordingly, twenty-five different species of spiders have hitherto been found. For five of these species, however, only the genera to which they belong have been indicated, for one (*Ar. notata* O. Fabr.) both the genus and the species are uncertain. The number of tolerably well known Greenland spiders is, therefore, as yet only nineteen.[5]

The species of the Polaris Expedition are as follows:

1. *Erigone pschychrophila* Thor.

Syn. 1872. *Erigone psychrophila* Thor., om Arachnider från

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[1] Om några Arachnider från Grönland, in Öfvers. af Vet.-Akad. Förhandl., XXIX (1872).

[2] Die zweite deutsche Nordpolarfahrt in den Yahren 1869 und 1870, etc., II Band, Wissenschaftliche Ergebnisse, I Abtheil, p. 400–403.

[3] On some new and little known spiders from the Arctic Regions, in Ann. and Mag. of Nat. Hist. 4 Ser., XX (1877).

[4] *Thanatus formicinus?* Cambr. and *Th. arcticus* Thor. are probably the same species.

[5] These nineteen species are: *Epeira diademata* (Clerck), *Tetragnatha Grœnlandica* Thor., *Linyphia turbatrix* Cambr., *Erigone psychrophila* Thor., *E. whymperi* Cambr., *E. penessa* Thor., *E. frigida* id., *E. vaginata* id., *E. spetsbergensis* id., *E. modesta* id., *Steatoda bipunctata* (Linn.), *Dictyna hamifera* Thor., *D. borealis* Cambr., *Thanatus arcticus* Thor., *Lycosa Grœnlandica* id., *L. glacialis* id., *L. aquilonaris* L. Koch, *Trochosa insignita* Thor., and *Epiblemum scenicum* (Clerck). Of these species *Epeira diademata*, *Steatoda bipunctata* and *Epiblemum scenicum* are taken upon the authority of *O. Fabricius.* "*Ar. rufipes* Linn." of that author is probably a collective name for several of the above named and other *Erigones;* the true *E. rufipes* (Linn.), Sund. has not, as far as I know, been found in Greenland.

Spetsbergens o. Beeren Eiland, in Öfvers. af Vet.-Akad. Handl., XXVIII (1871), p. 689.

Syn. 1877. *Erigone psychrophila* Cambr., on some new and little known Spid. fr. the Arctic Regions, loc. cit., p. 278, Pl. VIII, Fig. 4.

Of this remarkable spider three full grown males and two females were captured at Polaris Bay, June 3, 1872.

2. *Erigone penessa*, n.—Black, with palpi and legs blackish-yellow, mandibles yellowish, longitudinally striped with black; pars-cephalica elevated, strongly convex transversely, lateral eyes not contiguous, anterior laterals largest of the eight, oval and oblique, area occupied by the middle eyes (of which the anterior are slightly smaller than the posterior, and separated by a very small interval), rather longer than broad, much broader behind than in front; vulva consisting of a shallow transversal fovea, limited behind by a brown shining costa narrowing from the extremities towards the middle, and slightly curved forwards. ♀ *ad.* Length nearly 3 millim.

Female.—Cephalothorax inversely ovate, shining, rather shorter than tibia and patella of the fourth pair, moderately rounded in the sides of the pars thoracica, rather strongly narrowed and slightly sinuated at the pars cephalica; the forehead is rounded, and its breadth equals about two-thirds of the breadth of the pars thoracica; the cephalic furrows are strongly marked; the pars cephalica is elevated and transversely very convex, and provided with several short hairs between the eyes, and a longitudinal row of three longer hairs behind. Seen in profile the back of the cephalothorax rises gradually from the hind margin to the hinder part of the pars cephalica, the back then becoming somewhat sloping forwards, and very slightly convex; a slight depression is seen between the pars cephalica, and the pars thoracica. The front row of eyes is seen from before, nearly straight, but slightly curved upwards; the hind row is curved forwards. The four central eyes occupy an area slightly longer than broad behind, and much broader behind than in front; the lateral eyes of either side are separated by a very distinct interval (not contiguous), and placed on a protuberance. The anterior lateral eyes are the largest of the eight, oval and obliquely posited; the anterior centrals appear to be a little smaller than the posterior eyes; they are prominent, only separated by a very small interval, and their distance from the margin of the clypeus is double as great as their diameter; the interval between them and the anterior lateral eyes is somewhat greater than the diameter of these last named eyes. The intervals between the four posterior eyes, which are very nearly of the same size, are nearly equal, and at least half again as great as the diameter of an eye. Sternum large and broad, convex towards the margins, shining, sparingly spread with fine hairs. Mandibles somewhat ovate, nearly double as thick as the fore thighs, more than double as long as broad at the base, shining, and somewhat hairy; their back is moderately convex towards the base; their outer side is straight; on the inner, towards the apex, they are gradually narrowing, and slightly rounded; the claw furrow is armed with rather small teeth, the claw is long and slender. Maxillæ rounded on the outer side and at the apex, slightly inclined towards the labium, which is transverse and broadly truncate. Palpi provided with coarse hairs; their tarsal joint is cylindrical and obtuse at the apex. Legs slender, with rather coarse hairs; the thighs are cylindrical (not incrassated at the base above), the tibia of the fourth pair are about four times as long as the patella. Abdomen inversely ovate, shining and covered, though not thickly, with very fine hairs; the vulva consists of a shallow transverse somewhat elliptical fovea near the rima genitalis, the anterior margin of which here forms an elevated rather thick, shining costa, narrowing from the rounded extremities towards the middle, in front, and thus slightly curved forwards, and bordering the fovea behind, and on the sides; the hind part of this costa (or the anterior elevated margin of the rima genitalis), seen from behind, exhibits two small narrow transverse foveæ in front of the larger fovea; the area vulvæ is somewhat striated transversely.

Color.—Cephalathorax, sternum, lip and maxillæ black, the maxillæ a little paler. Mandibles dark yellowish, with three longitudinal black stripes. Palpi and legs of a very dull blackish yellow color. Abdomen grayish black, somewhat olivaceous on the under part; the hairs with which it is covered are olivaceous yellow. The area vulvæ is black, its hind elevated border brown.

Length of body nearly three millim.; length of cephalothorax three-quarters, of abdomen one and five-sixths millim., breadth of abdomen one and one-half millim. Legs I two and two-thirds, II nearly two and one-half, III two and one-quarter, IV nearly three and one-quarter millim.; pat. + tib. IV. nearly one millim.

A single female of this obscure species, which appears to belong to the *E. longipalpis* group, was found at Polaris Bay.

3. *Lycosa glacialis* Thor.

Syn. 1872. *Lycosa glacialis* Thor. Om några Arachn. fr. Grönland, loc. cit., p. 159.
1877. " " *Cambr.*, loc. cit. p. 281.

One adult female example from Foulke fiord.[1]

4. *Trochosa* inc. spec.

A young female of a Lycosoid which belongs, I think, to the genus *Trochosa*, was captured at Polaris Bay. The example is very much damaged, most of the legs being reduced to fragments, and the color of the abdomen entirely lost. The foremost row of eyes appears to be slightly longer, or at least is not shorter, than the middle row; the interval between the anterior central eyes is evidently greater than the intervals between them and the anterior laterals, which appear to be slightly smaller than the anterior central eyes. The area occupied by the four posterior eyes is longer than broad in front, but shorter than broad behind; the interval between the two large eyes of the middle row is nearly double as great as their diameter; the interval between the two eyes of the hindmost row equals the length of the middle row. The cephalothorax is brown, its sides covered with coarse appressed, olivaceous-grayish hair; all along the back it has a broad paler band covered with grayish-white hair, which stretches from the middle row of eyes nearly to the hind margin of the cephalothorax, filling up the area between the four posterior eyes, somewhat dilated and rounded in the sides just behind this area, and then tapering gradually backwards. The sternum and the under side of the coxæ are brownish-testaceous, clothed with grayish hair; the mandibles are piceous, covered with coarse grayish hair at the base, black-haired towards the apex. The legs are brown, very distinctly black-ringed, covered with shorter grayish and longer black hairs. Length of the example: seven millim.; length of its cephalothorax three millim.; legs of the fourth pair eight and one-half, patella and tibia of that pair three millim.

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[1] I take this opportunity to change the names of two North American *Lycosæ*, *L. indagatrix* and *L. impavida*, described in my paper, Descriptions of the Araneæ collected in Colorado in 1875 by A. S. Packard, Jr. (Bull. of the U. S. Geol. and Geograph. Survey, III, No. 2, pp. 512, 513), those names being pre-occupied. For *L. indagatrix* I propose the name *L. dromæa ;* for *L. impavida* that of *L. tachypoda*.

By the form of the band along the back of the cephalothorax, as also by several other characteristics, this species would seem to be identical with *Tarentula exasperans* Cambr. (loc. cit., p. 283, Pl. VIII, fig. 7); but in that species the foremost row of eyes is said to be the shortest of the three, whereas in the spider before us the middle row is as short as, if not shorter than, the foremost. —*T. Thorell, Genoa, April* 8, 1878.

THELYPHONUS OFFENSIVELY ODOROUS.—In the *Naturalist*, XI. p. 367, the poisonous nature of the whip-scorpion (*Thelyphonus giganteus*) of Mexico and adjoining portions of the United States was described. That it emits from its "whip" an extremely offensive smell, is stated by Mr. E. Wilkinson, Jr., in a letter to the Smithsonian Institution. The animal was found under stones near Chihuahua. "After considerable difficulty," he writes, "I succeeded in capturing him, but not, however, until I had received several doses of his powerful effluvia, which obliged me each time to retreat and catch a fresh breath."

THE PAPER NAUTILUS IN FLORIDA.—It has been doubted by some naturalists whether the Argonaut, or paper nautilus, occurs on the Florida coast. Two paper shells have been found here this winter, and last winter one was found with the animal entire, besides another empty shell. Its habitat is probably in tropical seas, but it is sometimes brought to these shores by storms. In the Indian Ocean I have seen it in calm weather sailing on the surface, as described by old writers, but discredited by closet naturalists of these days.—*S. C. C. Halifax Inlet, Florida, Feb.* 17, 1878. *From Forest and Stream, March* 21, 1878.

The *Naturalist,* Vol. XI, p. 243, contains a notice by S. Lockwood, on the occurrence of the paper nautilus on the New Jersey shore.

BUCCINUM UNDATUM *Linné.*—I have received many interesting specimens of this shell from the lobster-men at this town (Stonington Conn). They were brought up from a depth of ten to nineteen fathoms in lobster-pots attached to the "bait." The shells are very fine, with apex absolutely perfect; and in nearly every instance the entire shell is heavily incrusted with *Lithothamnion polymorphum.* I have never before observed this nullipore on shells, though it is common all along this coast on rocks and stones. The incrustation has prevented the erosion of the shell and when removed discloses an almost perfect epidermis. The locality of the *B. undatum* obtained is off Stonington, at the eastern extremity of Fisher's Island, where they occur in considerable numbers. The locomotive powers of *B. undatum* must be quite remarkable, since, in one instance, a lobster-man took between thirty and forty from one pot. These, like *Ilynassa obsoleta,* are seemingly attracted, oftentimes, from a distance, by the bait in the pots.

TRACHYDERMON (LEPTOCHITON) RUBER *Carpenter.*—Four specimens of this species were found on the *B. undatum* taken off Fisher's Island. Its natural habitat is "almost exclusively on and among rocks." Its presence on these shells may serve, in some measure, to explain their distribution. The chiton must go where the shell goes, but at any point may detach itself or be rubbed off and so become "naturalized" at that point. The chitons are on the shell, doubtless, because the nullipore with which it is incrusted forms their natural food. Their color is nearly that of the living *Lithothamnion,* though one specimen is a very dark brown. Their color is, therefore, *protective.*—*R. Ellsworth Call.*

NESTING HABITS OF THE CANADA FLYCATCHER.—I have submitted the eggs referred to in the "NATURALIST," Vol. XI, p. 565, under the heading—"Red-bellied Nuthatch (Sitta Canadensis)? nesting on the ground," to Dr. Brewer, for examination, and after comparing them with the various similar specimens in his cabinet, he thinks that they should be referred to the "Canada Flycatcher" (*Myiodioctes canadensis*), though even then he would retain the obnoxious interrogation point, as in some respects, the described nest is much unlike the typical nest of this bird.—*Frank H. Nutter.*

Drowned by an Octopus.—Though in British Columbia at the time of the occurence of the incident referred to by Mr. Moseley in Nature (vol. xvii, p. 27), I was in the interior, and consequently heard nothing of the matter. On reading Mr. Moseley's letter, however, I wrote to my friend Dr. W. F. Tolmie, of Victoria, and have just received from him an account verifying in all essential particulars the extract quoted by Mr. Moseley from the *Weekly Oregonian*.

A party of Makaw or Makah Indians, of Cape Flattery, were returning from a visit to the Songish Indians of the vicinity of Victoria, and camped the first afternoon at Metchosin, on the south shore of Vancouver Island. A young woman having separated herself from the others to bathe, did not return in the evening, and after having searched for her in vain the next morning, the rest of the party were about to continue on their journey, when, on rounding the first point, they saw the body of the woman as if seated on the sandy sea-bottom, with a large octopus attached to it, which, according to the description of Dr. Tolmie's informant, resembled a "fifty pound flour sack, full." The body was rescued in the manner described in the *Oregonian*, and when brought ashore, still had portions of the arms of the octopus adhering to it.

Dr. Tolmie also mentions the case of an Indian woman at Fort Simpson, who had, many years ago, a narrow escape from a similar death; also that among the Chimsgau Indians traditions of escapes and occasional cases of drowning exist, and further, that among these people a story is current that "a two-masted vessel manned in part or whole by men, with obliquely placed eyes and wearing queues (at Milbank Sound, Lat. 52°, about seventy years ago), was seized by an enormous squid, whose tentacles had to be chopped with axes ere the craft was clear of it. The ship is said to have been wrecked further south on the coast, in consequence of the evil influence of the monster."—George M. Dawson, in *Nature*.

The Habits of the Muskrat.—About the middle of last November while walking along the banks of the North Fork of Sappa creek, Rawlins county, Kansas, my attention was directed to an old beaver dam that had been recently repaired by a muskrat. Mud had been placed on the dam so as to make it water-tight, but so far as I could see no sticks had been brought there, excepting those used in the first building by the beaver. Some of the mud was removed so as to allow more water to escape and a trap set. The next morning the trap was sprung and the mud partly replaced. No beaver signs were to be found anywhere, while the tracks of muskrats were numerous in the mud used in repairing, and elsewhere around the dam. A trapper informed me that he had frequently observed dams that had been repaired by muskrats in a simlar manner.—*Russell Hill.*

IDENTITY OF DIEMYCTYLUS MINIATUS WITH DIEMYCTYLUS VIRIDESCENS.—Last summer I brought home from Sullivan county, Penna., a large number of specimens of *Diemyctylus miniatus* Raf., popularly called "little red lizard" or "red eft," and after keeping them in a dark box filled with moss, saturated with water, all the specimens have changed their color from bright vermilion to the olive shade characteristic of *D. viridescens*, and are in all particulars identical with the last named species. Although the specimens were kept in a moist medium, they were at no time immersed, and to make the test crucial I dropped three of them into a tub inclined at an angle with the floor and partially filled. Upon their immersion they immediately swam or wriggled vigorously for land, but after leaving the water and stopping a few seconds they turned around and walked back into the water and remained there, only coming up at intervals for air. One remained thus fifteen minutes before rising to the surface. Some hours after, upon watching them again, it was twenty minutes before one of them returned to the surface, and as the others seemed disposed to remain under a much longer time I was obliged to leave them. These specimens have been kept in the house all winter and are almost as lively as those I watched at the bottom of the lake in the summer. This morning I agitated the water with the tips of my fingers, and, upon attracting their attention, saw two of them gulp down two pieces of raw meat. Nothing could more satisfactorily demonstrate their entire satisfaction with the element in which they had been newly placed. The conclusion then is that instead of two well marked species, *D. viridescens* and *D. miniatus*, or of a species and a variety, we have but a single species *Diemyctylus miniatus.*

Dr. Hallowell was the first to express his belief that these so-called distinct species were the same (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., Feb. 1856). This was followed in April, 1859 (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila)., by the statement made by Prof. Cope, after detailing the synonyms of *D. viridescens*, "We include in the above synonyms those of the nominal species *D. miniatus*, which we think with Dr. Hallowell is a state of *D. viridescens*." In the Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist., Prof. Verrill's remarks, respecting *D. miniatus*, "I cannot agree with Prof. Cope in regarding this as a form of *D. viridescens*."—*Howard A. Kelly.*

AN EARLY BIRD INDEED —On March 21st I was shown a chipping sparrow's nest (*Spizella socialis*) in the midst of a strawberry bed on the farm of Mr. John P. Sanborn, near the city of Port Huron, Michigan, in which were three newly-hatched little ones and an egg. Such an occurrence, *even in the middle of April*, is unprecedented in this latitude, Robins appeared February 11th, bluebirds February 18th, blackbirds, song sparrows and golden-winged wood-peckers observed February 22d, bob-o-links March 2d, martins March 3d.—*G. A. Stockwell, M.D., Port Huron, Mich.*